

# Lee County

## Cancer Profile

September 2012



### **What Is Cancer?**

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States and in South Carolina. Cancer is not one disease, but a group of diseases. For example, lung cancer is a completely different disease than colorectal cancer. All cancers have one thing in common, they can grow and spread uncontrollably if not diagnosed at an early stage and properly treated.

Cancer is caused by many things, like smoking, poor diet, and/or family history. The greatest risk factor for any cancer is increasing age. As people age, their risk of getting cancer increases. Men and women have different risks of developing cancer. In the United States, one out of two men and one out of three women will have cancer in his or her lifetime.

### **What Is Cancer Incidence?**

Cancer incidence is a measure of how many new cancer cases occurred in a certain period of time. A cancer incidence rate tells how many people were diagnosed with cancer per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer incidence rate of 400 means that for every 100,000 people, 400 were diagnosed with cancer).

Incidence rates are age-adjusted, meaning the age structure of the population is taken into account. One county may have a larger number of elderly persons than another county. Adjusting for age differences allows us to compare county rates. Incidence rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

Table 1 shows selected cancers and the total cancers diagnosed in Lee County between 2005 and 2009.

The table shows the number of cases and the age-adjusted rates for these cancers in Lee County and in South Carolina. The last column shows how Lee County ranks in comparison to the other 45 counties in South Carolina. A rank of 1 means that Lee County has the highest rate of any county, while a rank of 46 means that Lee County has the lowest rate of any county.

Table 1. Incidence Data\* for Selected Newly Diagnosed Cancers, 2005-2009

Cancer Type	SC	Lee County	New Cases	Rank
	Age-Adjusted Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate		
Breast (Female)	122.0	128.2	73	11
Prostate	160.2	183.5	86	9
Colon/Rectum	45.0	62.6	71	2
Lung/Bronchus	72.3	84.0	89	8
All	471.5	505.1	544	4

\*Does not include *in situ* cases, except for bladder.

Cancers diagnosed in late stages lessen the potential for successful treatment and raise the risk of premature loss of life. Table 2 shows the percentage of cancers diagnosed in early and late stages of disease in South Carolina and in Lee County.

Table 2. All Cancers by Stage of Diagnosis, 2005-2009

	South Carolina	Lee County
	Percent of all cancers	Percent of all cancers
Early Stage	51	44
Late Stage	38	44
Unknown Stage	11	12

### **What Is Cancer Mortality?**

Cancer mortality is defined as the occurrence of cancer deaths in a certain population within a given time period. Cancer mortality can be reported as either the number of deaths or as a mortality rate. A cancer mortality rate tells how many people died of cancer per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer mortality rate of 150 means that for every 100,000 people in the population, 150 died from cancer).

Cancer mortality rates are also age-adjusted, meaning that they take into account the age structure of the population. Adjusting for age allows us to compare county rates by removing differences in age structure among the counties. Mortality rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

Cancer mortality data for Lee County for years 2005 to 2009 are shown in Table 3. The table lists selected types of cancer death as well as the total cancer deaths in the county. The number of deaths and age-adjusted death rates for Lee County and South Carolina are shown. The last column shows how the county ranks in comparison to the other 45 counties in South Carolina. A rank of 1 means that Lee County has the highest rate of any county, while a rank of 46 means that Lee County has the lowest rate of any county.

Table 3. Mortality Data for Selected Types of Cancer Death, 2005-2009

	SC	Lee County		
Cancer Type	Age-Adjusted Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate	Deaths	Rank
Breast (Female)	23.9	35.6	19	5
Prostate	26.8	43.9	19	4
Colon/Rectum	16.8	23.7	25	5
Lung/Bronchus	56.5	78.9	85	2
Pancreas	10.9	~	10	46
All	186.8	254.7	271	1

~ rate not calculated for counts 15 or less due to instability of rates

### **Impact of Cancer on Your County**

In the United States, 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women will develop a life threatening cancer during their lifetime. The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that about 1,638,910 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2012. This translates to over 4,490 new diagnoses each day. Furthermore, an estimated 577,190 people are expected to die in 2012 from cancer in the United States.

In South Carolina, ACS estimates 26,570 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2012 or over 72 new cancer cases diagnosed each day, while an estimated 9,670 South Carolinians will die from cancer in 2012.

Table 4. Actual Cancer Cases\* and Deaths in SC & Lee County, 2009

	South Carolina		Lee County	
	New Cases	Lives Lost	New Cases	Lives Lost
All	22,593	9,080	105	61
Male	11,875	5,025	54	37
Female	10,708	4,054	51	24
White	16,830	6,517	54	38
Black	5,282	2,313	51	22

\*Does not include *in situ* cases, except for bladder.

As seen in Table 4 there was a total of **105** new cancer cases and **61** deaths from cancer during 2009 for Lee County.

### Costs of Cancer to Lee County

Using actual cancer cases for Lee County and estimates from the National Institutes of Health, the estimated overall annual cost of cancer in Lee County for 2010 was \$18.7 million; \$7.3 million for direct medical costs (total of all health expenditures), \$1.5 million for indirect morbidity costs (lost productivity due to illness), and \$9.9 million for indirect mortality costs (lost productivity due to premature death).

### Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks 13th in the nation for breast cancer deaths. There were **3,291** new female breast cancer cases diagnosed and **614** deaths during 2012 in South Carolina. Lee County had **17** new female breast cancer cases and **less than 5** breast cancer deaths in 2009. Excellent methods of early detection are available for breast cancer.

### Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks 7th in the nation for prostate cancer deaths. For South Carolina men, **3,205** new prostate cancer cases were diagnosed, and **469** died from the disease in 2009. In Lee County in 2009 there were **13** new prostate cancer cases with **less than 5** deaths.

### Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is the 4th most common cancer in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks 27th in the nation for colorectal cancer deaths. There were **2,000** new colorectal cancer cases and **778** colorectal cancer deaths in 2009. In Lee County, there were **11** cases and **10** colorectal cancer deaths in 2009.

### Lung Cancer

Lung Cancer is the 1st most common cancer in South Carolina; currently South Carolina ranks 15th in the nation for lung cancer deaths. In South Carolina there were **3,508** new lung cancer cases diagnosed and **2,766** lung cancer deaths in 2009. There were **20** new cases and **20** lung cancer deaths in 2009 Lee County.

### Pancreatic Cancer

Pancreatic Cancer is the 10th most common cancer in South Carolina and the 4th most common cause of cancer death; currently South Carolina ranks 29th in the nation for pancreatic cancer deaths. In South Carolina there were **600** new pancreatic cancer cases diagnosed and **578** pancreatic cancer deaths in 2009. There were **less than 5** new cases and **less than 5** pancreatic cancer deaths in 2009 Lee County.

#### Note:

Data are subject to change as data sets are updated. Ranks include Washington DC.

The following suppression rules have been applied to the data in the text and tables above: (1) Counts of 1-4 are recorded as <5 (2) Counts of 5-9 are rounded to 10 (3) Rates resulting from counts 15 or fewer are suppressed due to the instability of calculating rates using small numbers.

#### Resources

##### SC Central Cancer Registry

<http://www.scdhec.gov/co/phsis/biostatistics/SCCCR/scccrmain.htm>

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##### American Cancer Society

<http://www.cancer.org/Research/CancerFactsFigures/CancerFactsFigures/index>

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##### National Program of Cancer Registries

United States Cancer Statistics

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/>



